UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250

Notice PM-2583

For: FSA and RMA Employees

Gainsharing Travel Savings Program

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management

1 Overview

A Background

The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act (5 U.S.C. 4501-4507) authorizes an agency to pay a cash award for "efficiency" or "economy". The Gainsharing Travel Savings Program is designed to reward employees who save the Government money while on Temporary Duty (TDY) travel.

B Purpose

This notice:

- continues the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program for FSA and RMA employees
- informs employees, supervisors, and managers of the procedures to follow when using the program
- clarifies the lodging credit when employees avoid lodging expenses when staying with family or friends.

C Labor-Management Obligations

Where exclusive representation exists, bargaining may be requested to the extent allowed by applicable statutes. Where contract language already addresses these policies and procedures for bargaining unit employees, contract language prevails.

Disposal Date	Distribution			
January 1, 2008	All FSA and RMA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices			

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program

A General

The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act (5 U.S.C. 4501-4507) authorizes an agency to pay a cash award for "efficiency" or "economy". FSA and RMA will continue rewarding employees who save the Government money from using either of the following:

- less expensive lodging
- frequent flyer benefits to purchase airline tickets for official travel.

Note: Employee participation in the program is optional.

B Types of Travel Covered

All TDY travel with lodging expenses, foreign and domestic, will be covered under this program.

Note: Only the 1st 30 calendar days of **extended** TDY travel (that is, a detail of more than 30 calendar days where a reduced per diem amount is required) can be counted as eligible for savings in the program.

C Lodging Savings

Employees who participate in the program can receive cash awards for incurring lodging expenses at a daily rate that is less than the maximum lodging rate for the locality under the lodging plus method.

Awards will **not** be made to individual employees on travel where lodging was prepaid or
prearranged and lower hotel rates were the result of contractual arrangements with the
hotel.

Note: Any savings resulting from shared accommodations under such an arrangement do qualify for the travel savings award.

• Under the Federal Premier Lodging Value Program, GSA is pursuing reduced hotel rates through agreements with hotels in major cities.

Note: Lodging savings that are not eligible for the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program include the following:

- hotels in the program
- hotels under "preferred property" agreements.
- The amount of lodging savings must be reduced when excess transportation costs are incurred while staying at lodging more distant from the TDY site.

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

C Lodging Savings (Continued)

• When a room is shared while on official travel, there will be a lodging savings.

Note: Employees should arrange to be billed separately. If separate bills are not possible, a daily rate must be determined for each employee. Divide the total lodging costs by the number of employees and the number of nights to arrive at a daily rate for each employee.

• All employees are encouraged to stay at a hotel that meets the requirements of the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990.

Note: Hotels in compliance are at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/hotel/.

- Lodging costs incurred on personal time, such as annual leave during official travel or any other type of personal preference travel used with official travel, will not be counted as lodging savings under this program.
- Employees who stay with someone while on official travel and avoid lodging expenses
 will receive credit for half of the lodging rate for the locality toward the travel savings
 cash award.

Example: Lodging cost is \$100 per night. The employee will receive \$50 credit. Enter \$50 on AD-2036, line (5), "Lodging Savings for Agency".

• Employees who incur additional transportation expenses must have those expenses deducted from their lodging savings.

Note: A determination must be made by the Approving Official that any transportation expenses incurred were excessive. **Examples of excess transportation costs** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- renting a vehicle, when a vehicle would not normally be rented at a TDY site, to travel to a place of free or reduced lodging
- when driving a privately-owned vehicle, driving 25 or more miles than would normally be traveled to/from the TDY site to obtain free or reduced lodging
- where a taxi fare incurred is 15 percent or more than what would normally be charged to obtain free or reduced lodging.

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

D Redemption of Frequent Flyer Benefits

Employees who obtain a free coach class ticket with frequent flyer benefits earned on official Government travel or personal travel are eligible for the travel savings award. Savings will be measured against the contract rate in effect at the time of the flight plus the applicable Travel Management Center (TMC) fee. If there is no contract rate, then the lowest available nonrestricted coach fare, plus the applicable TMC fee, will be used as the basis for measurement of the savings.

E Amount of Award

The amount of the award for each employee will be 50 percent of the savings on lodging expenses and the contract carrier airfare. Because Federal, State, local, and FICA taxes will be withheld on the award, the lowest minimum cumulative award that can be received is \$100.

F Criteria for Award

The cumulative savings **to the Government** must be at least \$200 before the employee is eligible to receive an award.

G Process and Responsibilities

The applicant will complete and submit AD-2036 (Exhibit 1) at http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/forms.html for all trips that show lodging savings or redemption of frequent flyer benefits.

• Each time the employee records savings, AD-2036 must be submitted to the traveler's Approving Official with the appropriate AD-616.

Note: After review of AD-616 and AD-2036, the Approving Official **will initial** AD-2036 by each trip.

• When the cumulative savings to the Government has reached at least \$200, the employee and his or her Approving Official **will sign** each AD-2036 that is submitted as supporting documentation for the award.

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

G Process and Responsibilities (Continued)

 All eligible employees must submit AD-287-2, AD-2036, and supporting documents to the Servicing Personnel Office by September 16 of each year, which will allow for processing time before the end of the FY.

Note: Any cumulative savings occurring after September 16 should be turned in as soon as possible after the end of the FY. If the \$200 criterion is not met before the end of the FY, it may be carried forward until it is met; however, the savings **must** be broken out by FY.

• The Approving Official shall provide a copy of AD-287-2 to BUD so that funds can be transferred from the travel allotment to the awards allotment.

H Availability and Completion of Forms

AD-2036 is available at http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/forms.html. Instructions for completing AD-2036 are in Exhibit 2. An example of AD-287-2 is in Exhibit 3.

I Distribution of Forms

The applicant shall send the original AD-2036, AD-287-2, and copy of AD-616 to the following.

IF the employee is located in	THEN send AD-2036, AD-287-2, and AD-616 to
FSA National Office	HRD, EPB-AWARD
RMA National Office	ATTN: Angela Jackson
	STOP 0595
	1400 Independence Ave., SW.
	Washington, DC 20250-0595
	Phone: 202-401-0682
	FAX: 202-205-9140.
• KCCO	KCHRO, ELRS
	ATTN: Dana Candler
• FSA, FMD, Financial Services	STOP 8398
Center	6501 Beacon Drive
	Kansas City, MO 64133
KCHRO	
	Phone: 816-926-6117
	FAX: 816-926-6156.

2 Gainsharing Travel Savings Program (Continued)

I Distribution of Forms (Continued)

IF the employee is located in	THEN send AD-2036, AD-287-2, and AD-616 to
• FSA, MSD, Kansas City	KCHRO, ELRS
Administrative Services	ATTN: Patty Gepford
Branch	STOP 8398
	6501 Beacon Drive
• FSA, Acquisition Management	Kansas City, MO 64113
Division	
	Phone: 816-926-6259
APFO	FAX: 816-926-6156.
• RMA	
FSA, ITSD	KCHRO, ELRS
	ATTN: Anne Wheeler
	STOP 8398
	6501 Beacon Drive
	Kansas City, MO 64113
	Phone: 816-926-6184
	FAX: 816-926-6156.
State and County Offices	State Office, Administrative Division.

The travel savings data on AD-2036 will be used to generate a nationwide report on the Gainsharing Travel Savings Program.

Example of AD-2036, Gainshare Travel Savings Form

Trip 1:

- Employee travels TDY to City X for 4 days.
- The contract carrier rate was \$1,000 round trip. The employee uses his or her frequent flyer benefits for a half price ticket (\$500 benefit) and has a TMC fee of \$20. The airfare savings to the Agency is \$480 (the frequent flyer benefits minus the TMC fees).
- The government hotel rate is \$100 per night, but the employee was able to get a room for \$90 per night. The lodging savings to the Agency is \$10 per day.
- The employee saved the Agency \$40 for lodging expenses and saved an additional \$480 on airfare costs.

Trip 2:

- Employee travels TDY to City B for 3 days.
- The government hotel rate is \$100 per night, but the employee was able to get a room for \$50 per night. However, the excessive transportation to the cheaper hotel was \$30 a day. The lodging savings to the Agency is \$20 per day (actual lodging costs minus excessive transportation).
- The employee saved the Agency \$60 for lodging expenses.

Trip 3:

- Employee travels TDY to City N for 7 days.
- The government hotel rate is \$100 per night; however, the employee stays with family members while in City N. The Gainsharing policy states the employee will receive credit for half of the lodging rate. Therefore, the employee should indicate \$50 (half of hotel rate) each day on AD-2036, line (5).
- The contract carrier rate was \$350 round trip. The employee uses his or her frequent flyer benefits for a free ticket (\$350 benefit) to save the Agency money and has a TMC fee of \$20. Therefore, the airfare savings to the Agency is \$330 (the frequent flyer benefits minus the TMC fees).
- The employee saved the Agency \$350 for lodging expenses and saved an additional \$330 on airfare costs.

Example of AD-2036, Gainshare Travel Savings Form (Continued)

This is an example of a completed AD-2036.

(04-13-01)	arm Service Agency			1. EMPLOYEE'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) TRAVELER, HARRY			3. INDICATE APPROPRIATE AGENCY (Check one of the following:)	
GAINSHARE	S FORM	2. EMPLOYEE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Last 4 digits) XXX-XX-4321				RMA V FSA		
4A. 1ST TRIP - TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION	NUMBER:	4B. FEMA NUMBER (or hotel/motel property	number): 4C, APP	ROVING OFFICIAL'S INIT	ΠALS:	4D. FISCAL YEAR:	
SAVINGS COMPUTATION:	1st NIGHT MON 2/19/2007	2nd NIGHT TUE 2/20/2007	3rd NIGHT WED 2/20/2007	4th NIGHT THURS 2/20/200	5th NIGHT	6th NIGH	T 7th NIGHT	
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(4) Minus Excessive Transportation	Š		\$	Š		Š	\$	
(5) Lodging Savings for Agency	\$ 10	s ; 10		S	10 s	Š	\$	
(6) Contract Carrier Cost	\$ 1000		\$	\$	\$	\$	<u>\$</u>	
(7) Frequent Flyer Benefits minus TMC Fees	\$ 480		\$	<u>\$</u>	\$	\$	\$	
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SAVINGS COMPUTATION:	1st NIGHT	2nd NIGHT	3rd NIGHT	4th NIGHT	5th NIGHT	6th NIGH	T 7th NIGHT	
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Instructions for Completing AD-2036

Up to 3 trips may be recorded on each AD-2036. When lodging savings or redemption of frequent flyer benefits are realized for a trip, record the trip on AD-2036 and submit it with the appropriate AD-616 to the Approving Official. The employee and the Approving Official will sign and date each AD-2036 when a minimum of \$200 in savings for the Government is accumulated. AD-287-2 (Exhibit 3) may then be prepared and sent to the Servicing Personnel Office, with a copy to the appropriate Travel Coordinator.

Complete AD-2036 according to the following table.

1 Enter employee's name (last, first, and middle initial). 2 Enter the last 4 digits of the employee's Social Security number. 3 Enter a checkmark in the box to indicate the appropriate agency. Table Authorization 4A - 6A Enter the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip AD-202 number. 4B - 6B Enter FEMA or property number for the hotel/motel identified on the Hotel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List. The Hotel and Motel Fire Saf 1990 National Master List is at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/hotel/.	
3 Enter a checkmark in the box to indicate the appropriate agency. Table Authorization 4A - 6A Enter the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip AD-202 number. 4B - 6B Enter FEMA or property number for the hotel/motel identified on the Hotel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List. The Hotel and Motel Fire Saf	
Table Authorization 4A - 6A Enter the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip AD-202 number. 4B - 6B Enter FEMA or property number for the hotel/motel identified on the Hotel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List. The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List.	
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Fire Safety Act of 1990 National Master List. The Hotel and Motel Fire Saf	
	fety Act of
1990 National Master List is at www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/hotel/	
1770 Trational triaster Elist is at www.usia.uns.gov/applications/notes/.	l
4C - 6C Enter Approving Official's initials.	
4D - 6D Enter FY in which savings occurred for each trip. If 1 trip crosses FY's, ent	
savings for the first FY as 1 trip and the savings for the second FY as another	er trip.
Savings Computation for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Trip	
(1) Enter day of the week and date for each night of lodging as savings were rea	alized.
(2) Enter maximum lodging rate for the TDY locality for each night's lodging.	
Note: In the example, \$100 was recorded for Monday for the 1st night of the state	
(3) Enter actual lodging costs for each night's lodging. If employees avoided al	
costs by staying with friends or relatives, enter 50 percent of the maximum l	lodging
rate.	11
(4) Enter any excessive transportation costs incurred when the lodging is more	
the TDY site. A determination must be made by the Approving Official tha	•
transportation expenses incurred were excessive. Refer to subparagraph 2 C	_ IOr
examples of excess transportation costs.	a that are
(5) Enter the actual lodging expenses and any excessive transportation expenses deducted from the maximum lodging rate for each night to arrive at the net l	
savings for the Government.	louging
(6) If frequent flyer benefits are being realized, enter the cost of the contract car	rrier or
lowest coach fare available for the airline cost.	
(7) Enter frequent flyer benefits redeemed.	
(7) Enter frequent flyer benefits redeemed.	
Note: In the example, the traveler did not fly on the 2nd trip and the travele	er received
a half-price ticket for the 1st trip.	
(8) Enter the calculated airfare savings.	
(9) Enter the total calculated savings for the Government (line (5) plus line (8)).) <u>.</u>

Instructions for Completing AD-2036 (Continued)

Item	Instructions						
	Summary Data						
7a	Enter total dollar amount of lodging savings. Enter the total items 4A(5), 5A(5), and						
	6A(5) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded.						
7b	Enter total dollar amount of airline savings. Enter the total items 4A(8), 5A(8), and						
	6A(8) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded.						
7c	Enter total dollar amount of savings for the Agency. Enter the total items 4A(9), 5A(9),						
	and 6A(9) for the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd trip recorded.						
7d	Enter summary totals.						
7e	Enter total dollar amount of award to employee.						
8A	Enter name of employee's supervisor.						
8B	Enter telephone number, including area code, of employee's supervisor.						
	Employee and Agency Approving Signatures						
9A	Enter employee's signature.						
9B	Enter date (MM-DD-YYYY) the employee entered his or her signature.						
9C	Enter employee's telephone number, including area code.						
9D	Enter employee's office location, including the Branch and Division.						
10A	Enter signature of the Agency Approving Official.						
10B	Enter date the Agency Approving Official signed AD-2036.						
10C	Enter title of the Agency Approving Official.						

Note: Submit AD-2036, appropriate AD-616's, and AD-287-2 to the Approving Official for approval.

Example of AD-287-2, Recommendation and Approval of Awards

This is an example of a completed AD-287-2.

	REC	OMN			agriculture PPROVAL OF AW	ARDS	CASE NO. (Personnel Use Only)	
ОТІ						ems 2-9, and award amou	unt for each payee.		
AG	ENCY						2. NAME OF EMPLOYEE (Last	t, first, middle initial)	
			FAR	M SERV	ICE AGENCY		TRAVEL	ER, HARRY	
S SOCIAL SECURITY NO 4321					4. POSITION TITLE	4. POSITION TITLE 5		STEP	
				1	Executiv	Executive Officer		GS-303-12	
City Z, AK IF AWARD APPROVED. MAIL CHECK TO:						7. PERIOD COVERED FOR AWARD (MMDDYY) FROM: 02-19-07 TO: 03-10-07			
					(ADDRESS)	07 10: 03-10-07			
" '			ECK ADDRES		(ABBREGG)				
	Потне	R (Spe	ecify address)	:	■				
. L	IST AWAR	DS OR	QSI'S IN THE F	PAST 52 WE	EKS (Specify type of award	, amount received, and effec	tive date)		
ear	re Blai	nk							
. (CITATION:	SUMMA	ARIZE EMPLOY	EE'S CONT	RIBUTION IN 25 WORDS O	OR LESS (This language will	appear on the employee's certifi	icate.)	
Е		IS BEIN	IG RECOGNIZI			, ,		,	
ea (/е вта	ıĸ			COMPLETE THE AL	DDDODDIATE AWAD	D OF OTION		
	12 . TYPE	OF RE	COGNITION R	FCOMMENT	DED (Check one)	PPROPRIATE AWAR	D SECTION		
_	EMPL	OYEE.	SUGGESTIO		EXTRA EFFORT	SPOT AWARD	TIME OFF AWARD* *	OTHER*	
A A		IVFNT SAKE	I∩N* AWARD	,	Δ\//ΔRΠ*	X GAINSHARING A	WARD		
\$	* Attacl	n a des	cription of the			ng recognized and the res	sulting benefits to the Governr	nent.	
5	** Attacl		cription if the o		exceeds the moderate be 15. TOTAL DOLLAR	enefits.	ESTIMATED FIRST YEAR S	SAVINGS	
Ï	PERS		(Give do	llar	AMOUNT/HOURS	MEASURABLE	'		
¥			amount/f or value		BASED ON: (Check	BENEFITS SCALE	\$		
EXIKA EFFORI AWAKD					appropriate box)	NONMEASURABLE BENEFITS SCALE	VALUE OF BENEFITS	APPLICATION	
_			\$630	.00	·				
	16 . TYPE	OF RE	L COGNITION RI	ECOMMEN	DED (Check one)				
		PERFORMANCE BONUS AWARD*			QUALITY STEP INC		December detion & Approve	location halow that the	
BONUS AWARD	AVVAI	χυ					Recommendation & Approval mance standards for the posit	ion were thoroughly reviewed	
ş						fthis recommendation; the cteristic and is expected in		e is outstanding; and that the	
NUS	* Attacl	n a cop	v of emplovee'	s latest per	•	. Also, attach a justification			
BO			ST PROMOTIC			B. DATE OF LAST WITHIN GRADE INCREASE		19. AMOUNT RECOMMENDED FOR PERFORMANCE BON	
								AWARD \$	
					RECOMMEN	DATION AND APPRO			
a. F	RECOMME	NDING	INDIVIDUAL (Si	gnature)	DATE	20b. NAME AND TI		DATE	
			·			'		•	
					1				
a. F	REVIEWING	3 OFFIC	CIAL (Signature)	1	DATE	21b. NAME AND T	TLE (Print)	DATE	
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erti	fy that the compliance egulatory	e with	osed action statutory ements.	29. FERS	ONNEL OFFICIAL (Signatui	e and Tille)		DATE PROCESSED	
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id re	ctronic version	n was de	signed using Wo	d 2000 for Wi	ndows by USDA-FSA.			Form AD-287-2 (7/94	